

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/082,107

Applicant(s)

HOSHINO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Paulos M. Natnael

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment received on 2/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

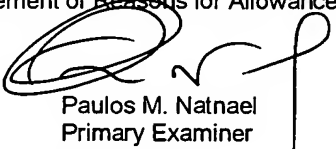
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Paulos M. Natnael
Primary Examiner
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DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims **1-12** are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art fails to disclose, a network system for remotely controlling a plurality of objects, comprising: a video camera of which a field of view or a controllable range within the field is set to include said objects to be controlled and which detects only light of a particular wavelength region, a remote controller for generating electromagnetic waves toward a given position within said field of view or within said controllable range to form a light pointer of said particular wavelength range at said position irradiated with said electromagnetic waves, and capable of remote controlling, a control unit that processes an output signal from said video camera to detect any one or ones, indicated by said pointer, of said objects to be controlled, receives from said remote controller an operation signal associated with the remote controlling on said indicated object, and supplies a control signal according to said operation signal through a network to said indicated object, wherein when receiving said operation signal, said control unit detects an operational state of said indicated object by using a database storing operational states of said plurality of objects so as to determine the control signal for controlling said indicated object to operate according to said operation signal, so that said indicated object can be remotely controlled by said remote controller, in claim **1**;

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wherein for each of the electric appliances, an apparatus recognition range is set to define the range of said appliance within said field of view of said video camera, and said control unit, when one of said apparatus recognition ranges is selected by said pointer, detects said appliance associated with said apparatus recognition range indicated by said pointer, and supplies said control signal to said detected appliance, as in claim 2;

the control unit registers a refrigerator to be in a designated state by specifying said refrigerator by a pointer, and under the condition that the specification of said refrigerator is registered, said control unit controls a television set, by use of said pointer to designate said television set, and by use of said remote controller to make a certain remote controlling operation, so that the state in which foods are placed in said refrigerator can be displayed on said television set, as in claim 6;

wherein said electric appliances are a television set, a refrigerator and an electronic oven, said control unit registers said refrigerator and said electronic oven to be in a registered state by use of said pointer to designate said refrigerator and said electronic oven, and under the condition that the designation of said refrigerator and said electronic oven is registered, said control unit controls said television set, by use of pointer to designate said television set and by use of said remote controller to make a certain remote controlling operation, so that information of possible recipes using foods placed in said refrigerator is displayed on said television set, as in claim 7;

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the control unit controls said television set, by use of pointer to designate said television set and by use of said remote controller to make a certain remote controlling operation, so that the state in which foods are placed in said refrigerator is displayed on said television set, and under the condition that the state in which foods are placed in said refrigerator is displayed on said television set, said control unit controls said television set by registering said electronic oven, so that information of possible recipes using foods placed in said refrigerator can be displayed on said television set, as in claim 8;

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571)272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Paulos M. Natnael
Primary Examiner
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June 19, 2005